CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A condensing unit comprising;

a compressor having a predefined dimension,

a condenser in fluid communication with said compressor for receiving refrigerant from said compressor and cooling the refrigerant,

a base supporting said compressor and condenser,

said base including first and second mounting mechanisms wherein said compressor engages one of said mounting mechanisms based on said predefined dimension thereby securing said compressor to said base whereby the other of said mounting mechanisms is used to secure said compressor to said base when said compressor has a different predefined dimension.

2. A unit as set forth in claim 1 wherein said base has a vertical axis and said first and second mounting mechanisms are further defined as a first mounting platform supporting said compressor on said vertical axis and a second mounting platform surrounding said first mounting platform and upwardly and outwardly stepped from said first mounting platform.

3. A unit as set forth in claim 2 further including a third mounting platform surrounding said second mounting platform and upwardly and outwardly stepped from said second mounting platform.

4. A unit as set forth in claim 3 further including a first mounting portion having a first plurality of mounting surfaces upwardly and outwardly stepped from one another relative to said vertical axis to further define said first, second, and third mounting platforms.

5. A unit as set forth in claim 4 further including a second mounting portion spaced from said first mounting portion and having a second plurality of mounting surfaces upwardly and outwardly stepped from one another relative to said vertical axis to further define said first, second, and third mounting platforms.

6. A unit as set forth in claim 5 further including a third mounting portion spaced from said first and second mounting portions and having a third plurality of mounting surfaces upwardly and outwardly stepped from one another relative to said vertical axis to further define said first, second, and third mounting platforms.

7. A unit as set forth in claim 6 further including a fourth mounting portion spaced from said first, second, and third mounting portions and having a fourth plurality of mounting surfaces upwardly and outwardly stepped from one another relative to said vertical axis to further define said first, second, and third mounting platforms.

8. A unit as set forth in claim 7 wherein said compressor includes a bracket engaging each of said mounting portions on one of said plurality of mounting surfaces.

9. A unit as set forth in claim 8 further including a plurality of insert-molded fasteners molded into each of said mounting portions at each of said mounting surfaces and said compressor is secured to said base by a portion of said plurality of insert-molded fasteners.

10. A unit as set forth in claim 1 wherein said base includes a mounting platform and said first and second mounting mechanisms are further defined as a first and second plurality of insert-molded fasteners molded into said mounting platform wherein said compressor engages one of said first and second pluralities of insert-molded fasteners based on said predefined dimension of said compressor.

11. A unit as set forth in claim 1 wherein said condenser has a predefined dimension and said base defines an inner support channel and an outer support channel adjacent to and stepped downwardly from said inner support channel and said condenser is supported by one of said support channels based on said predefined dimension of said condenser whereby the other of said support channels is used to support said condenser when said condenser has a different predefined dimension.

12. A unit as set forth in claim 11 further including a first plurality of guide posts upwardly extending from said base and integrally formed with said base.

13. A unit as set forth in claim 12 further including a plurality of guide rails, each having proximal and distal ends and defining a central aperture therebetween in mating engagement with said first plurality of guide posts at said distal ends.

14. A unit as set forth in claim 13 further including a cap spaced from said base and having a second plurality of guide posts downwardly extending therefrom for engaging said central apertures of said guide rails at said proximal ends such that said guide rails interconnect said cap and said base.

15. A unit as set forth in claim 14 further including a fan unit comprising a fan bracket supported by said cap wherein said cap defines an insert aperture therein for receiving said fan unit and said fan bracket includes a lip for resting on said cap thereby supporting said fan unit such that fan units of varying capacities can be easily exchanged in said condensing unit.

16. A unit as set forth in claim 1 further including a plurality of legs integrally formed with said base and downwardly extending therefrom for supporting said base and defining a space between said base and a support surface to facilitate moving said condensing unit.

17. A condensing unit comprising;

a compressor for compressing refrigerant,

a condenser in fluid communication with said compressor and having a predefined dimension,

a base supporting said compressor and said condenser, and

said base defining an inner support channel and an outer support channel adjacent to and stepped downwardly from said inner support channel wherein said condenser is supported by one of said support channels based on said predefined dimension whereby the other of said support channels is used to support said condenser when said condenser has a different predefined dimension.

18. A unit as set forth in claim 17 wherein said support channels are defined about a periphery of said base.

19. A unit as set forth in claim 18 wherein said base has a vertical axis and includes a first mounting platform supporting said compressor on said vertical axis and a second mounting platform surrounding said first mounting platform and upwardly and outwardly stepped from said first mounting platform.

20. A unit as set forth in claim 19 further including a first plurality of guide posts upwardly extending from said base and integrally formed with said base.

21. A unit as set forth in claim 20 further including a plurality of guide rails, each having proximal and distal ends and defining a central aperture therebetween in mating engagement with said first plurality of guide posts at said distal ends.

22. A unit as set forth in claim 21 further including a cap spaced from said base and having a second plurality of guide posts downwardly extending therefrom for engaging said central apertures of said guide rails at said proximal ends such that said guide rails interconnect said cap and said base.

23. A unit as set forth in claim 22 further including a fan unit comprising a fan bracket supported by said cap wherein said cap defines an insert aperture therein for

receiving said fan unit and said fan bracket includes a lip for resting on said cap thereby supporting said fan unit such that fan units of varying capacities can be easily exchanged in said condensing unit.

24. A unit as set forth in claim 23 wherein said guide rails define a plurality of receiving channels aligned with said support channels of said base.

25. A unit as set forth in claim 24 wherein each of said guide rails further define at least one groove adjacent to one of said receiving channels and extending between said proximal and distal ends.

26. A unit as set forth in claim 25 further including a close-out panel seated within at least one of said grooves of said guide rails.

27. A unit as set forth in claim 1 wherein said base defines a plurality of inner and outer support channels and a second condenser is supported by one of said plurality of inner and outer support channels.

28. An air-conditioning system for use with a cooling medium to cool a climate-controlled area, comprising;

a circuit,

a compressor in fluid communication with said circuit for compressing the cooling medium wherein said compressor has a predefined dimension,

a heat exchanger in fluid communication with said circuit for receiving the cooling medium from said compressor and cooling the cooling medium wherein said heat exchanger has a predefined dimension,

a base supporting said compressor and said heat exchanger,

said base including first and second mounting mechanisms wherein said compressor engages one of said mounting mechanisms based on said predefined dimension thereby securing said compressor to said base whereby the other of said mounting mechanisms is used to secure said compressor to said base when said compressor has a different predefined dimension, and

said base defining an inner support channel and an outer support channel adjacent to and stepped downwardly from said inner support channel wherein said heat exchanger is supported by one of said support channels based on said predefined dimension of said heat exchanger whereby the other of said support channels is used to support said heat exchanger when said heat exchanger has a different predefined dimension.